Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 AID-05 /075 W

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R 162038Z FEB 77 FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9718

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, DR

SUBJECT: TRIAL OF OPPOSITION LEADER POSTPONED

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 693

- 1. THE TRIAL OF JOSE FRANCISCO PENA GOMEZ, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE DOMINICAN REVOLUTIONARY PARTY, FOR ALLEDGEDLY SLANDERING THE DOMINICAN ARMED FORCES WAS POSTPONED TODAY UNTIL MARCH 4 TO ENABLE PENA'S LAWYERS TO PREPARE THEIR CLIENT'S DEFENSE. THE DEFENSE LAWYERS STATED BEFORE THE SIXTH PENAL COURT THAT DOMINICAN LAW REQUIRES AT LEAST AN EIGHT DAY WAITING PERIOD AFTER CHARGES ARE MADE FOR A TRIAL TO BE HELD. PENA GOMEZ WAS ARRESTED ON FEBRUARY 11 (REFTEL).
- 2. PENA GOMEZ IS ACCUSED BY THE ARMED FORCES OF VIOLATING PROVISIONS OF THE PENAL CODE AND OF LAW 6132 CONCERNING THE EXPRESSION AND DIFFUSION OF THOUGHT BY SLANDERING AND INJURING THE ARMED FORCES.
- 3. THE PRD LEADER, WHO INTENDED TO GO TO ISRAEL THIS MONTH AS A GUEST OF THE ISRAELI LABOR PARTY, IS UNDER AN IMPEDIMENT TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. THE SANTO DOMINGO DISTRICT ATTORNEY HAS STATED PUBLICLY, HOWEVER, THAT IF PENA GOMEZ ASKED FOR THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IMPEDIMENT TO BE LIFTED, THIS WOULD BE GRANTED. PRD SOURCES INFORM US, NEVERTHELESS, THAT SO LONG AS HE FACES CHARGES, PENA GOMEZ DOES NOT INTEND TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY AND WILL REGRET THE ISRAELI INVITATION.

4. APPARENTLY IN RESPONSE TO PRD'S APPEALS ABROAD, PENA'S TEMPORARY ARREST HAS ELICITED MESSAGES OF PROTEST TO

PRESIDENT BALAGUER FROM EUROPEAN SOCIALIST LEADERS WILLY BRANDT, BRUNO KREISKY, AND FRANCOIS MITTERAND, ACCORDING TO LOCAL NEWS SOURCES. THE PRD IS A MEMBER OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL. HURWITCH

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: TRIALS, OPPOSITION PARTIES

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Subject: TRIAL OF OPPOSITION LEADER POSTPONED

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, PINS, DR, (PENA GOMEZ, FRANCISCO PENA)

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